

Wildfire Response: CalFresh & CalWORKs

California Department of Social Services

October 16, 2017

Updated at 1:00pm on 10/16/2017

Agenda

1. Replacement benefits for CalFresh recipients with food loss due to fires
2. Displaced people: statewide access to new or continuing CalFresh & CalWORKs services
3. Hot food purchases by people with CalFresh or Disaster CalFresh in region impacted by fires – waiver request **pending**
4. Preview of Disaster CalFresh – not yet operating
5. Other social service resources via food distribution and OES & FEMA
6. Q&A

CDSS Resource Webpage

- October 2017 Wildfires Disaster & Emergency Response & Recovery Tool Kit (posted at top of the CDSS Disaster CalFresh webpage)

<http://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/CalFresh/Disaster-CalFresh>

Replacement Benefits for CalFresh Recipients with Food Loss Due to Fires

- A. All counties can accept individual applications for replacement benefits up to 30 days from the loss
 - Households must have active case for October 2017 in Sonoma, Napa, Yuba, Lake, Mendocino, Butte, Nevada and Solano Counties
 - Reports must be made by November 8, 2017
 - CWDs must confirm via SAWS or EPIC HH didn't already receive replacement benefits
- B. Six counties providing mass replacement benefits asap, per waiver: designated zip codes (not full county) within Lake, Mendocino, Napa, Nevada, Sonoma, Yuba. Total: \$765,832

Displaced People: Statewide Access to New or Continuing CalFresh & CalWORKs Services

A. New Applicants

- CalFresh ACWDL: Reminders on expedited service, residency verifications, other verifications.
- CalWORKs ACWDL: Reminders on Homeless Assistance waivers and lack of documentation or verifications within standard processing time periods.

Displaced People: Statewide Access to New or Continuing CalFresh & CalWORKs Services

B. Continuing Clients

Examples of services needed: replacement EBT cards, replacement benefits, semi-annual report (SAR 7) submission or annual recertification.

BOTH CalFresh & CalWORKs ACWDLs:

- To assist people displaced from Sonoma Co, counties can call 916-874-2200 (Sacramento Co. call center) from Monday-Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm.
- To assist people displaced from Napa Co, counties can call 510-374-4000 (C-IV counties' round-robin routing of their call centers) from Monday-Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm.
- To assist people displaced from other counties, counties can contact the home county, per usual.

Hot Food Purchases

- Current Status: waiver **pending** with FNS. Submitted by CDSS 10/15.
- Would allow both CalFresh and Disaster CalFresh recipients in region to purchase “hot foods” at grocery stores and other approved SNAP EBT retailers.
- Would apply to region with evacuated areas and with evacuation centers (13 counties): Butte, Contra Costa, Lake, Marin, Mendocino, Napa, Nevada, Orange, Sacramento, Solano, Sonoma, Sutter, Yuba
- If/when approved, those counties will be contacted and FNS approval will be posted on webpage. Outreach will also be done to grocery stores.

Preview of Disaster CalFresh

- Current status: **not yet operating**. Statewide waiver request in draft.
- Presidential declaration of major disaster with Individual Assistance (IA) authorized for people impacted by fires in eight counties: Butte, Lake, Mendocino, Napa, Nevada, Orange, Sonoma, and Yuba.
- CDSS working with eight counties to:
 1. Submit plan to FNS for approval asap
 2. Plan D-CalFresh operations in their Local Assistance Centers (LACS) & CWDs, including potential support from other CWDs.

New: People impacted by fires will be able to apply for and receive D-CalFresh in all 58 counties/3 consortia/3 portals.

Next Steps: D-CalFresh waiver request pending submission and FNS approval; CDSS will issue county letter and host webinar for all counties before D-CalFresh is operational in California.

Preview of Disaster CalFresh

Disaster CalFresh benefits are made available to people not receiving CalFresh and impacted by fires:

- One month of benefits at maximum allotment for household size
- Enrollment period is for 7 days, possible to request 3 day extension
- Simplified application CF-385, with required face to face interview
- Streamlined verifications
- Benefits go on regular EBT card (if there are EBT system-access issues, special Disaster EBT cards can be distributed to counties)
- Recipients may apply for regular CalFresh after month of D-CalFresh if need for food assistance persists

Preview of Disaster CalFresh

Other program elements:

- Supplemental benefits: all current CalFresh recipients would have their benefit level automatically increased to maximum allotment for one month, to be equivalent to D-CalFresh benefit levels.
- Hot food waiver: would apply to Disaster CalFresh recipients, too.

Preview of Disaster CalFresh

Disaster CalFresh administration -- *more info to be provided*

- Reporting: Daily reporting requirement.
- QC: Separate but significant QC integrity review.
- Administrative costs: same as regular CalFresh, i.e. 50% federal, 35% state, 15% county share.

Other Resources for Wildfire Response

- CalFresh outreach partners, to assist with new applicant need for regular CF and (in highly impacted areas) with D-CalFresh.
- Food Distribution via partnerships with food banks/EFAP and with Tribes/FDPIR.
- OES & FEMA resources, including Local Assistance Centers, Federal Individual Assistance, Shelters, and Evacuation Centers.

Q&A and CDSS Points of Contact

CalFresh:

- Kim McCoy Wade kimmccoy.wade@dss.ca.gov
- Alexis Fernandez alexis.fernandez@dss.ca.gov

CalWORKs:

- Kim Johnson kim.Johnson@dss.ca.gov
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SAWS/EBT:

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